

Amendments to the Claims

1 (original). A method for manufacturing an inkjet recording medium comprising the steps of: applying a coating color containing a pigment and a binder as major components to at least one side of a base material using a transfer roll coater; subsequently drying said coating layer to form an ink absorbing layer, wherein Hercules viscosity of said coating color is 5 mPa·s to 30 mPa·s and said pigment contains a synthetic silica having an oil absorption of 90 ml/100g to 200 ml/100 g, a BET specific surface area of 45 m<sup>2</sup>/g to 200 m<sup>2</sup>/g and an average particle diameter of 1.0 μm to 3.0 μm and/or a precipitated calcium carbonate-silica composite having an oil absorption of 100 ml/100g to 250 ml/100 g, a BET specific surface area of 5 m<sup>2</sup>/g to 150 m<sup>2</sup>/g and an average particle diameter of 1.0 μm to 10 μm.

2 (original). The method described in Claim 1 wherein said synthetic silica is obtained by wet grinding a synthetic silica slurry obtained by neutralizing an aqueous sodium silicate solution using a mineral acid and/or an aqueous acidic metal salt solution.

3 (original). The method described in Claim 2 wherein said synthetic silica is obtained by neutralizing an aqueous sodium silicate solution using an aqueous aluminum sulfate solution.

4 (original). The method described in Claim 1 wherein said precipitated calcium carbonate-silica composite is obtained by mixing a precipitated calcium carbonate with an aqueous alkaline metal silicate solution and adjusting pH of said mixed solution to 7-9 by adding a mineral acid at a temperature below the boiling point of said mixed solution.

5 (currently amended). The method described in Claim 1 [or 4] wherein the ratio by weight for precipitated calcium carbonate/silica in said precipitated calcium carbonate-silica composite is 30/70 to 70/30 in terms of solid content.

6 (currently amended). The method described in Claim 2 ~~any one of Claims 2 to 5~~ further comprising the step of adding said synthetic silica obtained by wet grinding said

synthetic silica slurry and/or said precipitated calcium carbonate-silica composite obtained by adjusting said pH to said coating color without proceeding through a drying step.

7 (currently amended). The method described in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ wherein said pigment contains said synthetic silica and/or said precipitated calcium carbonate-silica composite and a precipitated calcium carbonate having an average particle diameter of 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

8 (currently amended). The method described in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~ wherein said transfer roll coater is a gate roll coater.

9 (currently amended). The method described in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ wherein the coating weight of said ink absorbing layer per one side is 2 g/m<sup>2</sup> to 7 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

10 (currently amended). The method described in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~ wherein said coating color contains a cationic resin.

11 (new). The method described in Claim 4 wherein the ratio by weight for precipitated calcium carbonate/silica in said precipitated calcium carbonate-silica composite is 30/70 to 70/30 in terms of solid content.

12 (new). The method described in Claim 11 further comprising the step of adding said synthetic silica obtained by wet grinding said synthetic silica slurry and/or said precipitated calcium carbonate-silica composite obtained by adjusting said pH to said coating color without proceeding through a drying step.

13 (new). The method described in Claim 3 further comprising the step of adding said synthetic silica obtained by wet grinding said synthetic silica slurry and/or said precipitated calcium carbonate-silica composite obtained by adjusting said pH to said coating color without proceeding through a drying step.

14 (new). The method described in Claim 4 further comprising the step of adding said synthetic silica obtained by wet grinding said synthetic silica slurry and/or said precipitated

calcium carbonate-silica composite obtained by adjusting said pH to said coating color without proceeding through a drying step.

15 (new). The method described in Claim 5 further comprising the step of adding said synthetic silica obtained by wet grinding said synthetic silica slurry and/or said precipitated calcium carbonate-silica composite obtained by adjusting said pH to said coating color without proceeding through a drying step.

16 (new). The method described in Claim 2 wherein said pigment contains said synthetic silica and/or said precipitated calcium carbonate- silica composite and a precipitated calcium carbonate having an average particle diameter of 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

17 (new). The method described in Claim 3 wherein said pigment contains said synthetic silica and/or said precipitated calcium carbonate- silica composite and a precipitated calcium carbonate having an average particle diameter of 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

18 (new). The method described in Claim 2 wherein said transfer roll coater is a gate roll coater.

19 (new). The method described in Claim 2 wherein the coating weight of said ink absorbing layer per one side is 2  $\text{g/m}^2$  to 7  $\text{g/m}^2$ .

20 (new). The method described in Claim 2 wherein said coating color contains a cationic resin.